(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what new initiatives have been taken for ensuring better trade performance with these South East Asian Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COM MERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes Sir. However, for the first time after 1983-84, as per trends available for the first 10 months of 1989-90, India is enjoying a trade surplus with Indonesia.

(b) Singapore's status as a source of supplies on competitive prices and as a re-export centre, bulk purchases of Palm Oil, Rubber, Tin etc. from Malaysia and imports of Vegetable Oils etc. from Indonesia, are the main reasons for India's deficit trade balance. Initiatives for better trade performance include steps such as greater interaction at official and business levels, participation in international Exhibitions, securing negotiated projects against our bulk imports and holding Special Indian exhibition/display.

National Sericulture Project

506. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the National Sericulture Project launched by he Central Silk Board with World Bank/ Swiss assistance; and

(b) to what extent this project will help in increasing the silk production in Madhya Pradesh especially in the tribal districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUS' TRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The salient features of National Sericulture Project launched by CSB with World Bank/ Swiss assistance are as under:—

(1) Expansion of mulberry area and introduction of sericulture in new States/areas from the existing level of 2.55 lakh hectares to 3.13 lakh hectares.

(2) Increasing raw silk production in the country from 9,500 M. Tonnes to 15,500 M. Tonnes.

(3) Generating employment opportunities in rural areas from 6 million persons to 7 million persons.

(4) Increasing exports of silk products from Rs. 3,300 million to Rs. 9,000 million.

(5) Improving the quality and productivity of Indian silk.

(6) Strengthening the infrastructure for research, extension, seed production, processing, qualify control and marketing of cocoons as well as raw silk.

(7) Providing financial support to rearers, reelers, twisters and seed producers through institu-tional finance.

(8) Improving socially desirable features such as employment of women and use of smokeless Chulhas.

(b) Madhya Pradesh is recognised as one of the 12 pilot States in which National Sericulture Project (NSP) will be implemented by the Central Silk Board. The Project is being implemented in the Tribal district of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh and envisages development of 2000 acres of area under mulberry and production of 60 M. Tonnes of raw silk by the end of the project period (5 years).e